

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 KUWAIT 03723 041250Z

45

ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DRC-01 AEC-11 AID-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00

CIEP-03 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-11 FEAE-00 FPC-01 H-03

INR-11 INT-08 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 OMB-01 PM-07 RSC-01

SAM-01 SCI-06 SP-03 SS-20 STR-08 TRSE-00 FRB-03

ACDA-19 /167 W

----- 019776

R 041220Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0770

INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUWAIT 3723

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: TECH PFOR KU US

SUBJ: KUWAITI INTEREST IN ATOMIC ENERGY AND CONVERSION OF SEA  
WATER

REF: A) STATE 182094 (NOTAL); B) KUWAIT 3297

SUMMARY: MINFIN AND OIL ATEEQI HAS INDICATED UNDERSTANDING OF  
REASONS WHY US DOES NOT WISH DISCUSS COOPERATION WITH KUWAIT  
IN NUCLEAR ENERGY FIELD AT THIS TIME. HOWEVER, KUWAITIS WILL  
NOT BE DISSUADED FROM PURSUING INTEREST IN NUCLEAR ENERGY  
AS ALTERNATIVE TO PETROLEUM -- WITH OTHERS LIKE FRENCH IF NOT  
WITH US -- AND WE THEREFORE BELIEVE SUBJECT SHOULD NOT BE  
THROWN OUT OF COURT PERMANENTLY. IN MEANTIME WE INTEND KEEP  
ON PUSHING HYDROCARBON INTENSIVE UNDUSTRIES. EMBASSY REQUESTS  
DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR PROVIDE ANY AVAILABLE REPORTS ON  
CHEAP CONVERSION OF SEAWATER. END SUMMARY.

1. WE APPRECIATE DEPT'S PROMPT RESPONSE TO OUR MESSAGE ON  
KUWAITI INTEREST IN ATOMIC ENERGY AND SEAWATER CONVERSION.  
WITH STATE REFTEL IN MIND, I DISCUSSED SUBJECT AGAIN WITH MIN  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 KUWAIT 03723 041250Z

FINANCE AND OIL ATEEQI AUG 29.

2. ATEEQI SHOWED QUICK UNDERSTANDING OF REASONS WHY US IS RELUCTANT TO DISCUSS SUBJECT OF NUCLEAR ENERGY WITH KUWAIT AT THIS POINT, PARTICULARLY OUR FEELING THAT ENERGY-SHORT NATIONS SHOULD COME FIRST AND SENSITIVITY WITHIN CONGRESS OVER INTRODUCTION OF NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS IN MIDEAST. HE DRYLY OBSERVED KUWAIT ALREADY ENJOYS CERTAIN PREEMINENCE IN FIELD OF SALT WATER CONVERSION, AND THEREFORE GENERAL EXCHANGE ON THAT SUBJECT ALONE WOULD PROBABLY NOT BE PARTICULARLY INSTRUCTIVE. STUDY OF HOW TO CONVERT LARGE QUANTITIES OF SEA WATER -- SUFFICIENT EVEN FOR FAIRLY LARGE-SCALE AGRICULTURE IN KUWAIT -- BY USING ATOMIC POWER AS ENERGY SOURCE WOULD, HOWEVER, BE HORSE OF ANOTHER COLOR. ATEEQI ADVOCATED THAT IN ANY EVENT WE PROVIDE FRANK RESPONSE TO CP/PM SHAIKH JABER'S APPROACH TO SECRETARY SIMON (REF B).

3. WHILE IN STATE 182094 AND 157699 DEPT HAS MARSHALLED COGENT REASONS FOR NOT ENTERING INTO US-KUWAITI COOPERATIVE EFFORT ON NUCLEAR ENERGY NOW, I DO NOT THINK SUBJECT SHOULD BE PERMANENTLY THROWN OUT OF COURT. FOR ONE THING, ATOMIC ENERGY MOST LIKELY COULD NOT BE IN USE IN KUWAIT IN LESS THAN 12-15 YEARS FROM NOW. FOR ANOTHER, KUWAITIS FIRMLY BELIEVE THERE ARE BETTER USES IN LONG RUN FOR PETROLEUM THAN AS A FUEL; THEY ARE DETERMINED TO ENCOURAGE DEVELOPMENT OF ALTERNATE SOURCES OF ENERGY AND TO ACQUIRE THOSE THAT ARE SUITABLE FOR KUWAIT. WE ARE NOT GOING TO DISSUADE THEM FROM THIS EFFORT WITH ECONOMIC ARGUMENTATION OR BY DENYING THEM ACCESS TO OUR NUCLEAR INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY. THEY WILL SIMPLY GO TO SOMEONE ELSE -- LIKE THE FRENCH.

4. I PROPOSE IN REPLY TO SHAIKH JABER TO STATE OUR BELIEF US-KUWAITI COOPERATION IN NUCLEAR FIELD IS PREMATURE, PRIMARILY BECAUSE OTHER ENERGY-SHORT NATIONS NEED OUR HELP FIRST. THIS IS ARGUMENT SHAIKH JABER WOULD SYMPATHIZE WITH, AND STILL LEAVES OPEN OPTION OF RESPONDING MORE POSITIVELY AT SOME TIME IN THE FUTURE.

5. IN MEANTIME, WE CERTAINLY WILL KEEP UP OUR ALREADY ENERGETIC EFFORTS TO PROMOTE HYDROCARBON INTENSIVE INDUSTRIES IN KUWAIT.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 KUWAIT 03723 041250Z

6. AS FAR AS SEAWATER CONVERSION IS CONCERNED, WE WILL HAVE TO IDENTIFY AREAS OF NEW TECHNOLOGY THAT WE KNOW KUWAITIS DO NOT HAVE ALREADY BEFORE WE CAN EXPECT INTEREST THEM IN THAT SUBJECT ALONE. PARTICULARLY ENTICING TO KUWAITIS WOULD BE ANY RESEARCH BEING DONE INTO HOW TO CONVERT SEAWATER CHEAPLY. THEY ARE SERIOUSLY INTERESTED IN AGRICULTURE IN THE BELIEF THAT WIDE-SCALE AGRICULTURE COULD BE MAJOR INDUCEMENT TO KUWAITIS TO REMAIN IN KUWAIT AFTER THE OIL RUNS OUT, AND OF COURSE MISSING

INGREDIENT IS LOTS OF WATER. WE WOULD BE INTERESTED IN RECEIVING ANY REPORTS DEPT OF INTERIOR MAY HAVE ON SEAWATER CONVERSION ON MASSIVE SCALE.

7. EMBASSY PLANS ALSO DISCUSS SEAWATER CONVERSION WITH KUWAITIS HERE WITH OBJECT OF FINDING GAPS IN THEIR TECHNOLOGY THAT US EXPERTS MIGHT USEFULLY TAKE A LOOK AT. WE WILL REPORT ANYTHING PROMISING.  
STOLTZFUS

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** WATER, DESALINATION, INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION, NUCLEAR REACTORS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 04 SEP 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** shawdg  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1974KUWAIT03723  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D740244-1126  
**From:** KUWAIT  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1974/newtext/t19740976/aaaacmrv.tel  
**Line Count:** 124  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION NEA  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** A) STATE 182094 (NOTAL); B) KUWAIT 3, 297  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** shawdg  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 21 AUG 2002  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <21 AUG 2002 by kellew0>; APPROVED <27 FEB 2003 by shawdg>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** KUWAITI INTEREST IN ATOMIC ENERGY AND CONVERSION OF SEA WATER  
**TAGS:** TECH, PFOR, KU, US  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005